

Remarks:

Claims 1-10 and 12-30 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 13, 20, 25, and 29 and cancelled claims 11 and 31-33 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner indicated that claims 11-13, 20, 25, 29, and 30 are allowable. Applicants have amended claims 1, 20, 25, and 29 to include subject matter of that claims that they depend from. All pending dependent claims depend from claims 1, 20, 25 or 29. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now allowable. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation applications directed to all unclaimed subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 15, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 3,707,611 to Twyford. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,759,613 to Kurihara. The Examiner rejected claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,869,966 to Gatehouse. The Examiner rejected claims 23, 24, 26-28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurihara or Twyford in view of U.S. patent 5,579,002 to Iggulden et al.

The rejections based upon the cited references are no longer relevant since the only claims pending recite subject matter that the Examiner indicated he would allow. Therefore, the rejections based upon the cited references should be withdrawn. Applicants do not acquiesce to

the rejections based upon the cited references.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application and early issuance of the notice of allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/24/06



Eric J. Franklin, Reg. No. 37,134  
Attorney for Applicants  
Venable LLP  
575 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Telephone: 202 344 4936  
Facsimile: 202 344 8300